

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

JUDGE AND JURY. A popular explanation of LEARNINGS OF THE LAW OF THE LAND, by BENJAMIN L. ARNOTT, Esq., pp. 162. Harper & Brothers.

Mr. Abbott has made a volume not only of practical use, but of remarkable interest. He has not attempted to write a professional treatise or a popular law book, but he has undertaken to present in a clear and interesting style, for the benefit of the general reader, an explanation of the law of the land on topics of general concern, illustrating his exposition with well-chosen anecdotes and decisions of the courts. His first chapters are devoted to a survey of the American scenes of government, the constitution of the courts, etc., and from this introductory matter he passes to the consideration of National subjects, embracing citizenship, civil rights, the condition of Indians and Chinamen before the law, National banks, commerce, trade-marks, bankruptcy, polygamy, and so on. Under the head of State Subjects he gives an account of the laws respecting marriage, the responsibility and separate estate of married women, the observance of Sunday, cruelty to animals, the rights and liabilities of corporations, and so on, and a very clear and striking explanation of the anomalous condition of the diverse laws, and the complications which are constantly arising from the irreconcilable legislation of various States on this important subject. In New York, for example, divorce is only granted for adultery, while in Utah it can be obtained upon the most trivial pretext; yet when neither party is a resident of the Territory, yet under the clause of the Constitution requiring the courts of each State to give full faith and credit to the judgments of courts of other States, Utah divorces must be recognized in New York. A grave difficulty arises when a divorce has been obtained in a less State in order to secure a decree in the *Medieval Novels*, presents the fact that the frequent appearance of court in patients coming under treatment for lead poisoning had for many years been observed. It was formerly thought that this circumstance was peculiar only to London, and caused only by the hygienic laws of England and British life, but it is now fully admitted that the first effect of lead on the kidneys is to prevent the excretion of the uric acid which is contained in the blood, and this, as is well known, is one of the principal causes of gout. Sailors are particularly exposed to lead poisoning, and gout is not unusual among them.

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UNDULATORY NERVOUS ACTION.—One of the most recent theories of nervous action, deserving attention, is that the various peripheral expansions of sensitive nerves—such as undulations or vibrations, and convert them into waves, capable of being propagated along nervous tissue. Thus, the same nerve may be able to transmit along vibrations differing in character, and hence give rise to different sensations; consequently the same nerve fibres may, in its normal condition, transmit the wave which produces the idea of simple contact, or that which produces the idea of heat, touch, etc., the same nerve thus performing two functions, which are often of equal professional eminence, could at will, picture forms to themselves till they appeared to be realities.

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MEDICAL AND SURGICAL NOTES.

BROMSIAL DISEASES TREATED WITH SEA WATER.—An Italian medical journal gives an account of the management of cases of chronic non-specific laryngitis, chronic rhinitis, chronic pharyngitis, bronchial asthma, chronic bronchitis with or without bronchial dilation, the first and second stages of pleuritis, croupous pneumonia, and chronic pneumonitis of different forms, accompanied by a strong bronchial expectoration, and various forms of asthma. He does not advise it in those forms of phthisis which present a rapid course and are accompanied by much fibrillary action and great bronchial irritation. Pulmonary diseases are treated a rapid course and are accompanied by much fibrillary action and great bronchial irritation. Pulmonary diseases are carried out in Italy, and especially at Rome, where they are conducted on a large scale, and the best (two) persons may receive them at once, the air being compressed by means of compressed air and a steam engine.

PERMANENCE OF BONE.—Experiments in ascertaining the cause of permanence in the organic substance of bone point to the conclusion, on the whole, that its resistance to putrefaction is a consequence of the small quantity of water it contains, which, besides, is in chemical combination, tress bones having about 11 or 12 per cent of water and 28 of organic matter. As proving that the water is combined chemically, it has been shown by M. Abé that thoroughly dried and finely powdered bones, when reconstituted, become considerably heated—one gram of bone evolving about twelve units of heat; this chemically combined water seeming to act the part of water of crystallization, and cannot in no way be removed, while the water of ordinary bones is easily removed, that is, the proportion of water to the organic matter is easily removed.

EFFICACY OF A CHANGE OF CLIMATE.—The investigations made by Dr. Hartley, and published in *The London Medical Times*, in regard to the effect of a change of climate upon the human economy, and especially the influence of warm climates on the weight and strength, may be thus summarized: First, that the tropics, especially during the rainy season, should be avoided by natives of colder latitudes; second, that the young, the debilitated, and the diseased should especially shun warm regions; third, that mere but full-grown, healthy adults should go there, and that with all, even the latter, a speedy exit should be made therefrom when great loss of flesh and strength gives warning of approaching the disease; fourth, that such infectious agents as may increase the weakness and disease-producing influences of tropical climates, or which are introduced, should be avoided; and fifth, that the climate of tropical countries should be frequently changed for the more temperate ones of higher altitudes or latitudes.

FRENCH REMEDY FOR STUTTERING.—M. Chervin, of Paris, appears to have been very successful in his new system of treatment for stuttering. This system is divided into three stages. The first involves various respiratory exercises, during which the patient is first taught to make a long, full inspiration and follow it by regular, forcible expiration, the respiratory movements being then made with various rhythms until they become full, regular and easy, instead of being jerky, labored and fatiguing. In the second stage of treatment exercises with vowel sounds are substituted for the previous mute breathing, giving to each vowel the natural intonation of speech, etc., etc. The third stage is a continuation of the first, and the patient is gradually taught to speak more easily, thus rapidly varying the duration and pitch of each syllable.

SIMPLER THERAPEUTIC AGENT.—What is claimed to be a safer and more advantageous method of dealing with cancerous growths, humors, etc., consists in subjecting the parts to a stream of hot, dry air. This was some time since proposed, and has been satisfactorily tested, in a number of cases, by an English physician.

By means of a foot bellows he causes air to pass through a glass vessel containing caliche chloride, then directed against the surface of the cancerous sore. This application, continued for an hour, has the effect to relieve the pain and cause the parts heated to shrink and dry up very considerably, with a corresponding reduction of the tumor.

EXPERIMENTS WITH BREAD DIET.—The experiments of Meyer are quoted by *Nature* as showing that neither man nor dog can be fed advantageously upon bread alone, an immense quantity of this substance

being required to prevent the body from undergoing waste, while, by the addition of a small amount of flesh, a much less amount of total weight of food will answer the desired object; in fact, a persistence in bread diet causes the tissues of the body to become more watery, and the entire organization is less capable of resisting infections and poisons. In experimenting with wolf chow, Meyer finds that white wheat bread taken up in the greatest amount during its passage through the alimentary canal, and next to this, leavened bread, the North German black bread coming last in this respect. With a meal consisting of bread, meat, vegetables, eggs, and fruit, he found the meal satisfying to the feeling of hunger. Meyer does not admit that bread has the nutritive value so generally claimed for it.

HALLUCINATION OF THE SENSES.—Professor Maudsley remarks, in a recent lecture, that one striking feature observed by medical men who have had cases of hallucination under their charge is that the patients cannot be convinced that the objects they see, the sounds they hear, and the smells they perceive, have no real existence, and that the sensations they receive are the result of their excited nerves; it frequently happens, too, that a person who suffers from hallucination in respect of one sense has the others unaffected, and is on all other matters perfectly normal. Hallucination may either arise from an idea on which the mind is fixed, appearing as something exterior, or from the excitement of the sensory nerves, as in epilepsy. In epilepsy, however, the attacks of equal professional eminence, could at will, picture forms to themselves till they appeared to be realities.

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